

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 01809 130929Z

12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07

IO-14 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 130759Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9014

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ZURICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, WB, SZ, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CVIAIR - BERLIN-ZURWCH AIR SERVICE

REF: STATE 096201

1. IN DELIVERING AIDE MEMOIRE TO DR. GULDIMANN, DIRECTOR SWISS AIR OFFICE, ON MAY 10, EMBOFFS REVIEWED SUBSTANCE REFTEL AND STRESSED USG INTEREST IN IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL VIABILITY OF WEST BERLIN. FOLLOWING ARE GULDIMANN'S PRELIMINARY REACTIONS. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH FEDERAL

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AND SWISSAIR, AIR OFFICE WILL PROVIDE MORE FORMAL RESPONSE.

2. GULDIMANN SAID SWISS GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS US OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POSITION OF WEST BERLIN. ON OTHER HAND, HE INDICATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN CURRENT US AND SWISS POSITIONS

AND IT WOULD SEEM DOUBTFUL THAT MATTER CAN BE SETTLED
TO PERMIT PAN AMERICAN TO INTRODUCE SERVICE TO ZURICH
ON JUNE 1.

3. ON QUESTION OF NUMBER OF WEEKLY FREQUENCIES, GULDIMANN
SAID SWISS FULLY AGREE THAT CAPACITY OR FREQUENCY
RESTRICTIONS ARE OBJECTIONABLE AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.
PROPOSAL TO ALLOW PAA THREE FLIGHTS PER WEEK MADE IN ORDER
TO RESPOND IN SIMILAR MATTER TO BRITISH REQUEST FOR DAILY
BEA BERLIN-ZURICH TURNAROUND SERVICE. IN RESPONSE EMBOFF
COMMENT THAT PAA FELT SERVICE SHOULD BE DAILY IN ORDER BE
COMMERCIALY VIABLE, GULDIMANN RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT
TRAFFIC POTENTIAL DID NOT WARRANT TWICE DAILY BERLIN-ZURICH
SERVICE (ONE EACH BY BEA AND PAA). GULDIMANN SAID FREQUENCY
LIMITATION NEED NOT BE INCLUDED IN REVISION OF BILATERAL
AGREEMENT AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN US AND BRITISH ON NUMBER OF FLIGHTS PER WEEK FOR
EACH CARRIER. SWISS COULD IN SOME MANNER BE ADVISED OF
SUCH UNDERSTANDING. GULDIMANN SAID GOS WILL NOT RESPOND
TO UK APPLICATION UNTIL THIS MATTER WORKED OUT WITH USG
AND HAS NOT HAD TALKS WITH HMG.
EMBASSY COMMENT. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO EMBASSY WHY SWISS
SHOULD CLAIM TO BE CONCERNED RE COMMERCIAL VIABILITY OF
BEA AND PAA ZURICH-BERLIN SERVICE PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE
APPEARS OE NO EARLY PROSPECT OF COMPETITIVE SWISSAIR SERVICE
TO WEST ZERLIN. ALLIED CARRIER SERVICE TO ZURICH WOULD
PRESUMABLY DIVERT SOME TRAFFIC FROM SWISSAIR SERVICE TO
FRG CITIES BUT, ON OTHER HAND ONE OF REASONS SWISS HAVE
REACTED RELATIVELY POSITIVELY TO US REQUEST HAS BEEN
RECOGNITION THAT ZURICH TIE TO WEST BERLIN WOULD BENEFAT
WORLDWIDE SWISSAIR NETWORK. END COMMENT.

4. GULDIMANN SAID SWISS REQUEST FOR ADDITION OF TORONTO
(BESIDES MONTGEAL) TO CHICAGO ROUTE WAS NOT TO INCREASE
FREQUENCIES BUT TO ALLOW IMPROVED OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.
GOS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TALKS WITH CANADA JUNE 10 AND HOPES
OBTAIN TORONTO RIGHTS. GULDIMANN SAID SUBSTITUTION OF
TORONTO FOR MONTREAL "POINTLESS" AND OF NO INTEREST.

5. REGARDING US OFFER TO SUPPORT SWISS APPLICATION FOR
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PAGE 03 BERN 01809 130929Z

LANDING RIGHTS AT WEST BERLIN, GULDIMANN SAID HE DID
NOT THINK THIS WAS FEASIBLE IN NEAR FUTURE GIVEN ROLE OF
USSR AND EAST GERMANY IN SUCH MATTERS.

6. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW-UP AT POLITICAL DEPARTMENT WEEK
OF MAY 13 BUT CIVIAL AIR MATTERS ARE HANDLED ALMOST
EXCLUSIVELY BY AIR OFFICE. GULDIMANN WILL BE AWAY FROM
BERN UNTIL ABOUT MAY 24 BUT HE ASSURED US SWISS RESPONSE

TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE WILL BE FORMULATED IN HIS ABSENCE.

7. DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH CONSIDER FURTHER WHETHER TWICE
DAILY SERVICE ZURICH-BERLIN IS COMMERCIALY WARRANTED.
IF NOT, AND IN INTEREST PRESERVING POLICY OF AVOIDING
CAPACITY LIMITATIONS, WOULD TALKS WITHLVITISH BE
APPROPRIATE TO COME TO INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING TO PERMIT
EARLY INTRODUCTION OF LIMITED SERVICE (THREE TIMES WEEKLY)
WITH STEP-UP TO DAILY FLIGHTS WHEN CLEARLY JUSTIFIED BY
TRAFFIC? BY SAME TOKEN ASSUMING SWISS WILL NOT INCREASE
CHICAGO FREQUENCIES, WOULD IT CLEARLY BE AGAINST USG
AVIATION INTERESTS TO ALLOW INTERMEDIATE STOPS AT BOTH
MONOREAL AND TORONTO?
DAVIS

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